

Army Issues Strict Curbs on MPs To Bar Abuses in Lie Detectors' Use

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The Army has laid down strict regulations designed to prevent any abuses in the use of lie detectors by military police investigators.

An unpublicized Army order bars MP criminal investigators from taking advantage of a person who may be tired, upset, ill or otherwise not at his best.

It also forbids anything deceptive, such as investigators wearing white coats that might make them look like doctors.

The Army regulation goes well beyond a Defense Department order intended to safeguard a person's constitutional and legal rights when confronted by a lie detector.

The use of lie detectors by Government agencies has come under sharp attack in

Congress and has been investigated by a House subcommittee.

The Army order says that no lie detector test will be given without the express approval of the base provost marshal and that the device may be operated only by an accredited examiner.

Among the restrictions listed were these:

- Criminal investigators will not subject a person to prolonged questioning just before a lie detector examination.

- Such an examination "will not be conducted when it is apparent that the subject is mentally or physically fatigued."

- "No person will be examined while obviously emotionally upset, intoxicated, under the influence of a sedative, or who is known to have a mental disorder or to

be addicted to drugs or marijuana."

- A test may not be held while the subject is "experiencing physical discomfort of significant magnitude or while possessing physical disabilities which, by themselves, might cause an abnormal response to be recorded."

- An examiner will confine his test questions to matters pertinent to the offense being probed.